LPG dispensing Stations

1044. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG dispensing stations as on date, State-wise and city-wise;

(b) the time it will practically take to get one vehicle filled, vehicle-wise;

(c) whether a study has been conducted by Government about feasibility of LPG as auto fuel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have commissioned three (two in Delhi and one in Mumbai) auto LPG dispensing stations so far.

(b) It takes about 3-5 minutes to serve a four wheeler customer at an auto LPG dispensing station.

(c) and (d) LPG is considered to be a clean and environmentally friendly auto fuel world wide.

Fire in ONGC Well

1045. SHRI CHO.S RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out in the ONGC well;

(b) if so, the nature and the value of the loss due to this fire;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this was a sabotage attempt by the terrorist and anti-social elements; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the security in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROELUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A fire broke out at Oil & Natural Gas

Corporation Ltd.'s (ONGC) Well No. 345 in Oil Field located in Bharuch District of Gujarat on 30/10/01.

(b) Loss due to oil and gas burnt during the fire has been estimated as Rs. 12.50 Lakhs per day. The total loss, including expenditure incurred in controlling the fire and reviving the well is estimated to be around Rs. 5 Crores.

(c) The evidence at the site indicates that the fire was caused by criminals pilfering crude from the well. ONGC has reported that there did not appear to be any attempt of sabotage by Terrorist and anti-social elements.

(d) The Government have ordered an inquiry on 16.11.01 by a Committee of Experts headed by Major General (Retired) S.C.N. Jatar, former Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC Videsh Ltd. and former CMD of Oil India Ltd. The ONGC has also taken the following steps in this regard:—

(i) Gujarat Police have been requested to ensure effective measures for deterrence by identifying all the criminal elements involved in the incident. They have also been requested to set up an independent Special Team of Senior Police Officers to take over the investigation of all cases relating to theft of Crude Oil in the State of Gujarat. .

(ii) Instructions have been issued to ONGC officials to carry out a campaign to educate the local people about the dangers involved in attempting pilferage/theft of oil from ONGC installations.

(iii) Inspection of oil wells and installations by ONGC personnel has been intensified.